MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1914.

The fifth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1914 was held in their office in the Lemon Building, 1729 New York avenue, NW., Washington, D. C., on Friday, May 8, 1914. The following members were present:

Daniel C. French, Chairman,

Frederick Law Olmsted,

Thomas Hastings,

Charles Moore,

Edwin H. Blashfield,

Peirce Anderson;

also Colonel William W. Harts, U. S. Army, the Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:15 a. m., and proceeded at once to the business before it.

1. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the preceding meeting, held on March 20, 1914, were presented and approved, after the following changes had been directed:

On page 8: Strike out the word "five" in the second line and in the sixteenth line, and the words" reappointed for four years" in the eighteenth line.

2. GRANT MEMORIAL: Mr. French reported that he had inspected the model for the cavalry group for the Grant Memorial at the studio of Mr. Shrady the sculptor and that Mr. Shrady was making excellent progress on it. He said that the sculptor expects to finish the cavalry group in bronze within a year and the statue of Grant in bronze within two years; and that the work or the models had progressed so far that, in case of the death of the sculptor, it could be carried

successfully to completion by others. Mr. French stated that Mr. Shrady was carrying or to splendid achievement a wonderful work of art and that he should be permitted to take his own time about it. This was also the sense of the Commission and Mr. French was requested to convey to Mr. Shrady their keen interest in seeing his work carried to a successful completion.

3. BUSTS OF CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER BY MR. PARTRIDGE: Mr. French further reported that he had inspected at the studio of Mr. Wm. Ordway Partridge, sculptor, the marble bust of Chief Justice Fuller which the Commission had previously recommended to the Joint Committee on the Library should be referred back to the sculptor for further study. Mr. French reported that the sculptor had put further study and work on the bust and that it was now acceptable. The Commission adopted Mr. French's report and placed on record its approval of the completed bust of Chief Justice Fuller as revised by Mr. Partridge.

4. POWELL MEMORIAL: The Secretary then submitted revised final plans for the proposed memorial to John Wesley Powell (prepared by Mr. James R. Marshall) received from the Department of the Interior with the request for an expression of the views of the Commission as to the advisability of that Department's approval. The Commission inspected these plans and recommended their approval by the Interior Department. (See Exhibit A.)

5. "INDIAN BUFFALO HUNT" SCULPTURAL GROUP: The Commission thereupon reconsidered its report to the Committee on the Library of the House of Representative, which had been adopted at the last meeting, upon the artistic merits and wisdom of purchase of the piece of statuary by Mr. H. K. Bush-Brown entitled "The Indian Buffalo Hurt". An alternative report suggested by Mr. Olmsted was discussed, but it was decided to adhere to the wording of the originally adopted report and that the view expressed by Mr. Olmsted in his letter (copy of which is attached under Exhibit B) be contained

in a separate and supplementary communication addressed to the Chairman of the House Committee. This latter letter is to be drafted by Mr. Olmsted and brought before the Commission at their next meeting.

6. BRONZE BUSTS OF THE PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES ALONG THE LINE OF THE AVENUE OF THE PRESIDENTS: Colonel Harts next laid before the Commission a letter from the President-General of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution requesting their endorsement of the idea entertained by that Society of placing bronze busts of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the United States along the line of the Avenue of the Presidents in this city. He was instructed by the Commission to inform Mrs. Story that, if a bill providing for the action she suggests shall be introduced in Congress and referred to the Commission for report, they will then be in a position to take formal action in the matter. (See Exhibit C).

7. GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL BUILDING: The Secretary laid before the Commission a letter from Mrs. Henry F. Dimock, President of the George Washington Memorial Association, submitting for their approval, in accordance with the provisions of law for the erection of that building, the plans and design for the George Washington Memorial Building by Tracy and Swartwout, architects of New York City. These had been previously passed on and accepted by a jury of Award in the competition for a design for that building. The Commission declared their preliminary approval of the plans and design with the understanding that the working drawings, before being contracted for, be submitted to them for final approval. (See Exhibit D.)

8. WOMAN'S "TITANIC" MEMORIAL: Mrs. John Hays Hammond and Mrs. Robert S. Chew, representing the Woman's "Titanic" Memorial, appeared before the Commission at eleven o'clock for a conference upon the design for that memorial by Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney. The Commission had previously discussed the matter and had appointed Mr. French a committee of one with power whenever necessary to consult with the

designer regarding the decorative features of the memorial, as well as to make reply on behalf of the Commission whenever the matter comes formally before them for action.

Mrs. Hammond explained in detail the status of the matter, saying that her committee had selected Mrs. Whitney to prepare and execute the design for the memorial. The Chairman assured Mrs. Hammond of the Commission's deep interest and that they were more than in sympathy with the general subject. He informed Mrs. Hammond, however, that the Commission could act formally and definitely in this matter only when it is referred to them by the President, a committee of Congress, or an officer duly authorized by law; and that, as the Joint Resolution upon which the Commission had previously reported to Congress had lapsed, it would be necessary to have a newly introduced bill officially referred to the Commission. Mrs. Hammond and Mrs. Chew thereupon withdrew, but later reappeared with a Joint Resolution, introduced during the present Congress, and formally referred to the Commission for report by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Library. The Commission assured Mrs. Hammond of immediate action on this request and later transmitted their report to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Library. (See Exhibit E.)

9. LAMP POSTS ON PINEY BRANCH BRIDGE: The Secretary next laid before the Commission a requests of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for advice regarding a proposed change in the present lamp posts on the Piney Branch Bridge. The District Commissioners stated that the breakage of the globes used in the present posts has been so great that the expense of their replacement has been considered unreasonable by the Commissioners, and asked whether, in the opinion of the Commission, a post similar to that used on the Avenue of the Presidents, or a post of the so-called Millet design should be used on the curbs. The Commission felt that, regarded purely from an artistic standpoint, it would seem undesirable to make such a change and authorized the Secretary to confer with the District Commissioners regarding a possible solution of the problem, suggesting that the large globes might be protected by a grille.

(See Exhibit E-1)

10. SCULPTURAL GROUP FOR PEACE PALACE AT THE HAGUE: Colonel Harts next laid before the Commission a letter from the State Department, with accompanying explanatory memoranda, stating that, in accordance with the provisions of the last Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation Act reading

> "To enable the United States to contribute to the adornment of the Peace Palace at The Hague by sending some object of art or natioanl production, $20,000.",

that Department had communicated with twenty-seven sculptors whose names had been suggested by various sources inviting their attention to this appropriation in order that they might have an opportunity of submitting designs. The results had not been at all satisfactory to the State Department, only one design having been received, and they requested a recommendation from the Commission upon the question of how they might procure a satisfactory design for this contribution.

Upon request, Mr. William Phillips, Third Assistant Secretary of State, appeared, for conference before the Commission. Mrs Phillips stated that his Department would follow any advice the Commission would give them. He was advised that the Commission are decidedly of opinion that, in order to obtain a work of art of such high degree of excellence as is required in this case, direct selection of the artist should be made on the advice of professional advisers. It was further suggested that the Department invite each of the sculptors to whom letters had previously been written (including such others as the Commission may suggest) to furnish photographs of their executed works. Using these photographs as a basis a committee of the Commission would then give to the Department the name of the sculptor who, in their opinion, should be able to execute the work of art; and the same committee would later undertake to inspect the work during the various stages of execution until it has reached such a stage that it can be submitted to the entire Commission for approval. Mr. Phillips then withdrew.

Mr. French, Mr. Blashfield and Mr. Hastings were thereupon appointed a committee with full power to prepare a letter to the State Department, and later on, in case there should be undesirable delay in advising that Department, instead of waiting for a meeting of the Commission to act on behalf of the Commission in the matter of the selection of the artist to be commissioned to prepare and execute the design. (See Exhibit F).

Various letters in this matter, submitted for reference by the State Department, were presented. These included a letter from Mr. Albert Jaegers, submitting tentative programme of competition, a letter from Mr. Herbert Adams, President of the National Sculpture Society, and a letter from Miss Edith Hope Ogden, offering to donate a sculptural piece for the contribution.

11. SITE FOR SULLIVAN TABLET IN BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING: The Commission thereupon considered the request of the Secretary of the Treasury for the designation of a suitable location in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for a tablet to the late Thomas J. Sullivan, Director of that Bureau. A committee composed of Mr. French, Mr. Blashfield, and Mr. Hastings later in the day visited the Bureau, and selected as suitable a site at the right or the left of the inner door at the west entrance. This location was pointed out to Mr. Joseph E. Ralph, the present Director, who accompanied the members on this inspection. (See Exhibit G).

12. LAMP STANDARD FOR BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING AND MODELS FOR LIONS FOR SAN FRANCISCO CUSTOMS HOUSE: The Commission also later in the day, at the request of the Supervising architect of the Treasury, inspected at his office in the Treasury building a design for a special lamp standard for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. This design was found particularly pleasing, and received the approval of the Commission. (See Exhibit H.)

The Commission at the request of the Supervising Architect at this time informally inspected 8 models for two lions proposed by the Treasury Department for placement at the main entrance of the SanFrancisco Customs House. These models were

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submitted by Victor C. Holm (2), Anna V. Hyatt (3), C Keck (2), and A. P. Proctor (1). The Commission advised that, if the Supervising Architect prefers the realistic type of lion, they recommend those of Miss Hyatt, but if that office decides on a heraldic treatment., the models by Mr. Keck might properly be chosen.

13. PLAN FOR TREATMENT OF EAST POTOMAC PARK: The Commission next considered a progress plan on the treatment of the portion of Potomac Park east of the Railroad embankment, submitted by the officer in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds. Colonel Harts explained the various treatments proposed for different sections of this area, and Mr. Burnap, landscape architect of that office, was called in consultation. The Commission approved the plan with the understanding that, in the study and development of each separate unit shown, detailed plans of these will be later submitted to the Commission.

14. ENTRANCE TREATMENT FOR MONTROSE PARK: The Commission also inspected a plan showing the treatment proposed for Montrose Park, and in particular the entrance treatment to the Park, submitted by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds. These plans were approved for the purpose of making estimatesfor appropriations, with the understanding that final drawings will be submitted to the Commission for their approval before the work is undertaken.

15. TREATMENT OF OLD GEORGETOWN RESERVOIR: Plans for the treatment of the old reservoir in Georgetown, prepared and submitted by the office of Public Buildings and Grounds, were approved.

16. PLAN FOR TREATMENT OF FRANKLIN PARK: The Commission also considered a plan prepared by the office of Public Buildings and Grounds for the treatment of Franklin Park. Mr. Olmsted was appointed a committee to examine the plan on the ground with the landscape architect of that office, Mr. Burnap. He made this examination later in the day and made various suggestions for the guidance of the landscape architect

19-1/2. TREATMENT OF THE PULASKI RESERVATION: A plan for a new landscape treatment proposed for the Pulaski Reservation by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds received the approval of the Commission.

17. PLAN FOR TREATMENT OF JUDICIARY PARK: A plan for the treatment of Judiciary Park, prepared and submitted by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, was approved.

18. TREATMENT OF CENTRAL PORTION OF LAFAYETTE PARK: A plan for the treatment of the central portion of Lafayette Park, prepared by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, was approved as a preliminary plan for the purpose of making estimates for appropriations from Congress, and subject to further study and resubmission.

19. LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR RAWLINS SQUARE: A plan for the landscape treatment of Rawlins Square was also approved as a preliminary plan for the purpose of making estimates for appropriations from Congress, and subject to further study and resubmission.

20. PLANTING AROUND LINCOLN MEMORIAL: Colonel Harts read a report prepared by the landscape architect under his office upon the progress of planting in West Potomac Park in the vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial. This report indicated that planting had been completed to an extent indicated on a diagram submitted with the report comprising the area between B street and the first interior roadway paralleling it, extending from 17th street to the roadway on the north and south axis of the Lincoln Memorial, as well as one-half of the corresponding area to the south of the site for the lagoon. It was stated that the appropriation for the coming fiscal year will complete the planting of this area. The commission approved of the progress made, and of the planting proposed provided the immediate entourage of the memorial be not interfered with by planting at present.

21. TREATMENT OF CENTRAL ISLAND OF UNION STATION PLAZA: Colonel Harts informed the Commission that the District Commissioners, upon receiving from Mr. Peirce Anderson on behalf of the architects Messrs. D. H. Burnham and Company a plan for the treatment of the central island of the Union Station Plaza, had indicated a disinclination to follow certain features of this plan, and that he had therefore made certain changes in that plan, which he had pointed out, in order to have it adopted as nearly as possible

as a whole. Mr. Anderson later stated that he would confer in this matter with the District Commissioners.

22. PAVILION ON WEST SHORE OF TIDAL BASIN: Colonel Harts also requested the opinion of the Commission regarding the advisability of placing a boating pavilion on or near the point immediately to the south west of the John Paul Jones Statue on the shore of the Tidal Basin. The Commission stated that they would approve of a boathouse on the Tidal Basin.

23. SUGGESTIONS FOR SITE FOR BUILDING FOR NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE: Colonel Harts also requested the Commissions' informal opinion regarding a site for a proposed building for the National Academy of Science. The Commission informed him that a site along north B street to the west of the Pan-American Union would constitute a desirable location for such a building. They felt that the character of buildings now facing Seventeenth street would make a National Academy of Science building a proper structure to turn the corner along north B street. The Commission further suggested that, should the proposed building be entirely under Government authority and of sufficient size and artistic importance it might be placed along the Mall.

24. IN RE SITE FOR FREER BUILDING: Mr. Moore discussed informally with the Commission the question of a site for the Freer Art Gallery, proposed for erection in Washington by Mr. Charles L. Freer of Detroit. He pointed out a site at the southwest corner of the square bounded by B street, north, and B street, south, and 7th and 12th streets, northwest, which was favored by him and by Mr. Charles A. Platt, the architect who is to design the building. The other members were also favorably impressed with this site.

25. PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION: The Commission later discussed their proposed exhibit for the Panama-Pacific Exposition. Colonel Harts informed them that the Government Exhibit Board had repeatedly asked him to exhibit a large model of the Lincoln Memorial and that he had ascertained that a replica of the large up-to-date model now in the

office of Mr. Henry Bacon, which Mr. Bacon favored for exhibition, would cost, complete and set up in San Francisco, $1,750.00; that he had notified the Government Exhibit Board o f this and that they had thereupon allotted the Commission a further sum of one thousand dollars with the understanding that the balance be paid by the Commission out of their previous allotment. The Commission were agreeable to this arrangement.

The Commission also directed that a series of comparative maps on the same scale showing (1) L'Enfant's original plan for the city of Washington; (2) the District as it was one hundred years later with streets, parks, public buildings, &c; (3) a combination map showing L'Enfant's plan superposed on No. 2 in color to show how much of it had been followed and how much disregarded; and (4) the District as it is today with the Park Commission's adaptation and extension of L'Enfant's plan superposed in color so far as it has not been carried out or modified. Mr. Olmsted stated that Mr. J. G. Langdon of Baltimore, Maryland, had helped in the preparation of the Park Commission Plans and had signified his willingness to supervise the preparation of these plans at the rate of $1.25 per hour, plus expenses, the draughting work to be done by a draughtsman in the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds who had been offered as available for this work by Colonel Harts. On account of Mr. Langdon's familiarity with the Park Commission Plans and the work that is to be done in this connection the Commission authorized that this arrangement be carried out.

Photographic enlargements of various public buildings, to be collected under the direction of Mr. Moore, were also approved as satisfactory exhibit material.

26. The Commission thereupon adjourned, and left the office for lunch. After lunch, Mr. Olmsted, as a committee, accompanied the landscape architect of Public Buildings and Grounds for an examination of various parks, while a committee of Mr. French, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Blashfield and the Secretary visited the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury for an inspection of the model for a lamp

standard for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the models for lions to be placed at the main entrance to the San Francisco Customs House. After this inspection, the latter committee visited the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and designated a location for the proposed Sullivan tablet.

Thos. F. Hart

SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER

APPROVED: Daniel C. French.

CHAIRMAN.

May 8, 1914.

Hon. Adolph C. Miller,
Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior,
The Department of the Interior.

Sir:

In compliance with the request in your letter of April tenth last the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, examined the working drawings for the monument to John Wesley Powell at the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, prepared by Mr. James R. Marshall, and recommends their approval by the Interior Department.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

W. W. HARTS.

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

ABC

A

May 9, 1914.

Sir:

In accordance with the request in your letter of February eighteenth last for an expression from the Commission of Fine Arts concerning the artistic merits of the piece of statuary entitled "The Indian Buffalo Hunt", by H. K. Bush-Brown, and the wisdom of its purchase by the Government, I have to inform you that the Commission inspected this group at the studio of the sculptor. The Commission believe this work to have great artistic merit, and worthy of acquisition by the Government. If the group is acquired by the Government, its location and placement should be carefully studied with relation to the surroundings, as the picturesque character of the group would not make it available for all locations but eminently suitable for some.

By direction of the Commission:

Very respectfully,

WM. W. HARTS,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. James L. Slayden,

Chairman, Committee on the Library,

of the House of Representatives.

ABC

13

AN ALTERNATIVE LETTER PROPOSED BY MR. OLMSTED AND DISCUSSED BY THE COMMISSION (SEE MINUTES).

Hon. James L. Slayden,
Chairman, Committee on the Library,
House of Representatives, U. S.

Sir:

In response to your letter of February 18th transmitting a copy of H. R. 13175 for the purchase of a group of statuary known as "The Indian Buffalo Hunt" by R. K. Bush-Brown, the Commission of Fine Arts respectfully report that the group has great artistic merit and is well worthy of possession by the Government.

The Commission hesitate to give a categorical answer to your second question as to the wisdom of its purchase, because that question seems to involve not merely a matter of artistic judgment but a question of governmental policy as to the purchase of works of contemporary art not required for specific purposes of commemoration or decoration. Some governments, notably that of France, regularly appropriate a fund to provide for the purchase of works by contemporary sculptors and painters and in the expenditure of this fund extraordinary pains are taken systematically to survey the whole field and to select representative examples of the best sculpture and best painting which is being produced in the country. The Commission believe this practice to be of great value both on account of the encouragement which it gives to the production of good works of art and on account of making these admirable examples accessible to the public. It would be a great satisfaction therefore to this Commission if Congress should see fit to enter upon such a policy even on a very modest scale.

Another, although generally a less efficient, way of attaining similar results is by the occasional passage of an act like the one now under consideration authorizing the purchase of a specific work of art selected somewhat at random but subject to the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts as being above a standard of acceptable quality, without inquiry as to its relative merit compared with all the other works of its period which are above the same standard. This Commission is eager to be of any assistance it can in such cases and is glad to be able to report, as above, that the work of art now in question is well worthy of possession by the Government; but any positive answer as to the wisdom of its purchase at a price not exceeding $45,000 would depend upon assumptions concerning the intention of Congress and the probability of further appropriations for similar purposes which this Commission cannot properly make.

(The report might stop here or might go on somewhat as follows:)

If Congress should see fit to appropriate $45,000, and no more than $45,000, for the purchase of one or more examples of the best contemporary American sculpture it is very questionable whether a careful search of the field would result in the selection and purchase of this group alone as the wisest manner of expending the fund.

Respectfully,

B

May 8, 1914.

Mrs. William Cumming Story,
President-General, National Society
Daughters of the American Revolution,
Memorial Continental Hall,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam:

In reply to your recent letter asking for the endorsement of the Commission of Fine Arts of the idea entertained by the Daughters of the American Revolution for placing bronze busts of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the United States along the line of the Avenue of the Presidents in this city, I am instructed by the Commission to say that, if a bill providing for the action you suggest shall be introduced in Congress and referred to the Commission for report, they will then be in a position to take formal action in the matter. Under the law constituting the Commission they can advise only when called upon to do so by the Presidents, a committee of Congress, or an officer charged by law with the determination of certain questions of art, and they, therefore, can take no initiatory action in matters of this kind.

Very truly, yours,

W. W. HARTS

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

C M
ABC

May 8, 1914.

Mrs. Henry F. Dimock,
President, George Washington
Memorial Association,
1301 Avenue of the Presidents,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam:

I have the honor to inform you that, inaccordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Public Buildings Act No. 432, 62d Congress, 3d Session, the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting held today inspected the plans and design for the proposed George Washington Memorial Building by Messrs. Tracy and Swartwout, architects of New York City, which have been accepted by a Jury of Award in a competition for a design for this building. The Commission declare their preliminary approval of the plans and designs with the understanding that the working drawings, before being finally contracted for, be submitted to them for final approval.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

WM. W. HARTS.

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

ABC

D

May 8, 1914.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge the receipt of Senate Joint Resolution No. 17, 63d Congress, 1st Session,

" Joint Resolution granting permission to the Woman's Titanic Memorial Association to erect a memorial structure in Potomac Park, in the city of Washington. ",

and requesting a report upon the same.

The project of a memorial to commemorate the heroism of those who sacrificed their lives in the Titanic disaster commends itself as entirely fitting; and it is proper that a memorial representing a nation-wide sentiment be located at the National Capital.

Sites in Potomac Park are available for such a memorial; and one such site, the Commission learns, is contemplated. The sketches for the work give promise of fulfilling artistic demands. If the project shall be carried out according to the tentative plans informally submitted to the Commission, the result will be an appropriate memorial of heroism, and at the same time an ornament to the city of Washington.

The Commission recommends the passage of the Resolution.

Very respectfully,

DANIEL C. FRENCH

Chairman.

Hon. Luke Lea,
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Library,
United States Senate.

May 20, 1914.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting held on May 8th last, gave careful consideration to your letter of April 7th, requesting their advice upon the question of replacing the lamp posts on the parapets of the bridge across Piney Branch on the line of the Avenue of the Presidents with lamp posts placed along the curbs of the side walks of the bridge.

Confirming what I stated during an interview with the Engineer Commissioner this morning, the Commission of Fine Arts feel that, regarded purely from an artistic standpoint, it would seem undesirable to make the change proposed in these lamp posts. If the sole reason for the proposed change is the expensive replacement of the globes in the present lamp posts, it occurred to the Commission that some other type of globe might be found satisfactory in which separate segments only would be likely to be broken and which could be replaced with little expense; or that some form of grille similar to that on lamps along Pennsylvania avenue which would cover a large part of the globe might be adopted; or that even some form of wire netting might be found suitable for protection and appear not unsightly. The Commission feel that the adoption of boulevard lights along the curb would impair the bridge effect and make it appear rather a continuation of the street than a separate structure.

Please advise me if the Commission can be of further assistance to your Board in this matter.

Respectfully,

WM W HARTS

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. O. P. Newman,
President, The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

E-1

May 16, 1914.

My dear Mr. Phillips:

It gives me pleasure to transmit herewith the formal report of the Commission of Fine Arts in the matter of the proposed contribution of the United States to the Peace Palace at The Hague, as well as a form for the proposed circular which your Department intends to send to the various sculptors and which you requested the Commission to prepare.

The sculptors whom the Commission suggest to be added to the list already in your hands are:

Sherry E. Fry, 147 Columbus avenue, New York City.

A. A. Wineman, 441 West 21st street, New York City.

Miss Evelyn B. Longman, 11 East 14th street, New York City.

All the ~~papers~~ papers in connection with this matter which your Department so kindly loaned the Commission for their information are returned herewith with their sincere thanks.

Most sincerely, yours,

CM W HARTS

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer

Hon. William Phillips,

Third Assistant Secretary of State.

7

May 15, 1914.

Sir:

As suggested by you during your informal interview with the Comission of Fine Arts at their meeting on Friday, May eighth last, the following memorandum, covering the points then discussed, is submitted:

The Commission understand that on April 5, 1913, the Department of State sent to a list of twenty-seven American sculptor a circular inviting them to enter a competition for the contribution of the United States to the Peace Palace at The Hague. This action was taken by the State Department in order to carry out the provisions of the Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation Act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, as follows:

> To enable the United States to contribute to the adornment of the Peace Palace at The Hague by sending some object of art of national production, $20,000.

The Department informed the sculptors that the Board of Directors of the Cargenie Foundation had suggested that " a marble group by an American sculptor representing in classic style an allegory of 'Peace through Justice' would be an appropriate contribution by this Government.". The letter concluded with this paragraph: "The matter is brought to your attention in order that you may, if you so desire, have an opportunity with other sculptors of submitting designs for this work. Should it be your pleasure to enter into this competition the Department would be glad to have you, at the time of the submission of designs, furnish as well specifications and and approximate estimate of the cost of the sculpture.".

It appears from a State Department Memorandum dated April 2, 1914, that from "time to time inquiries have been made by the Neth rlands Government and the Carnegie Board of Directors through the American Legation at The Hague as to what steps were being taken by the United States Government to furnish its contribution and rather pressing the Government to carry out the proposed plans.". It further appears that the different Governments signatory to The Hague Convention promptly made their contributions :"stained glass windows, large paintings, monumental entrance, decorative panels, fine marble, jasper vase, tower clock, large carpets, fountain," et cetera, and that all these generous gifts were in place at the dedication of the Palace in August, 1913; while "the conspicuous niche on the main landing of the main stairway which was given to this Government in compliment of its contribution was still vacant and that the fact was a matter of comment and wonderment of the different governments and even of foreign visitors to The Hague.".

Further, it appears that in March, 1913, the Department addressed a letter to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Corcoran Gallery of Art and the Department of the Interior, asking for the names of competent sculptors of the United States and that the Department wrote to the persons whose names were so furnished "inviting their attention to the appropriation in order that they might have an opportunity of submitting designs". The communication to the sculptors brought a reply from the president of the National Sculpture Society, who declined the invitation and stated that no member of that society could take part in the competition unless a programme was prepared which came within the rules of that society. The response from other sculptors varied; some accepted and asked for a programme; a considerable number declined. In general the sculptors were practically unanimous in asking for a defi-

-f.

nite programme of competition in order that they might act intelligently in submitting designs, should they think it best to do so. Up to the present date but one design has been submitted to the Department.

The Commission understand that the virtual failure of the method at first employed has led to the consultation of last Friday.

Confirming what was said to your personally, the Commission state that they are decidedly of the opinion that in order to obtain a work of art of a high degree of excellence the direct selection of the artist should be made on the advice of professional advisers.

Such a course is eminently suited to present conditions. First, because there is pressing need of immediate action in selecting the sculptor; secondly, because at best two or three years must elapse before the work can be completed; thirdly, because even if a sketch should be found satisfactory, professional inspection during the progress of the work would be necessary in order to ensure a satisfactory result. The Commission desire to emphasize the fact that it often happens that the executed work falls short of the promise given by the sketch; and that a work of art is rather a growth than the mere working out of theoriginal sketch. It has been the experience of the Commission that sympathetic conference between sculptors and committees of this body have been welcomed by the artists and uniformly have produced good results.

Under ordinary circumstances the Commission of Fine Arts would advise, in case the direct selection of a sculptor were not feasible, a selection of a small number of sculptors whose past performances would especially recommend them to consideration for this special sculpture and that they be asked to submit examples of their executed work to be compared and considered by a committee of experts with a view to selecting a sculptor for the proposed group. Since, however, the Department has already communicated through its circular letter with a large number of sculptors, the Commission feel that in justice to them they should be included in an invitation to submit photographs of their finished work. Using these photographs as a basis the Commission of Fine Arts is prepared to advise the Department without delay as to a sculptor to execute the desired group, and would undertake also to inspect the work during its progress until final completion.

Such action, as the Commission understand, is contemplated by the law of May 17, 1910, under which the Commission of Fine Arts was created.

We think the foregoing memorandum is in substantial accord with the conclusions reached at the conference last Friday.

Very respectfully,

DANIEL C. FRENCH

Hon. William Phillips, CHAIRMAN.

Assistant Secretary of State.

SUGGESTED FORM FOR CIRCULAR TO BE SENT BY STATE DEPARTMENT.

Sir:

The circular letter addressed to a considerable number of American sculptors by the Department of State on April 5, 1913, offering them an opportunity to enter a competition for the execution of a work of art to form the contribution of the United States to the Peace Palace at The Hague has not met with such response as promises to ensure a favorable result. The Department, therefore, withdraws its former letter and substitutes in place thereof the following request, which is sent to all sculptors to whom the original letter was sent, together with others whose names have been submitted to the Department by the Commission of Fine Arts.

The Department has decided upon the direct selection of a sculptor for the proposed group for the Peace Palace through an examination and consideration of the executed work of the sculptors to whom this letter is sent. To this end the Department requests you to furnish photographs of your past works, particularly such as have special bearing upon the proposed group. The photographs received in response to this invitation will be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for examination and advice as to the sculptor who in their opinion should be entrusted with the execution of the group.

A contract for the execution of the group will be entered into with the sculptor so selected upon such terms as are usual. The sum available for the group is twenty thousand dollars.

The Department will have the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, to whom will be submitted all studies and sketches and models made during the progress of the work as well as the completed group, as is authorized by the Act approved May 17, 1910, creating that Commission.

Photographs, in order to be considered, must be sent by mail or express not later than (?) and will be returned to the owners after their consideration.

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May 9, 1914.

Sir:

In answer to your request of March thirty-first last that the Commission of Fine Arts visit the new building for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and designate a location for a proposed tablet to the late Mr. Thomas J. Sullivan, Director of that Bureau, I have the honor to inform you that, after an inspection of the entrance and main lobby of that building yesterday, the Commission recommend a location at the right or the left of the inner door at the west entrance. This location was pointed out by Mr. Ralph, the present Director, at the time of the inspection.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

W. W. HARTS.

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Treasury.

ABC

May 18, 1914.

Sir:

In answer to your letter of May 15, 1914 (SA-TD), requesting the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts in regard to a design for five exterior lighting standards to be placed at the south front of the new building for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing of the Treasury Department, you are informed that the Commission, after an inspection of the model for this standard at the time of their meeting on May eighth last, recommend the adoption of the design by your Department.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

WM. W. HARTS

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. B. R. Newton,

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

ABC